



MEETING NOTES

Region 13 Family Council Meeting

Date & Time: February 7th, 2022, 7:00-9:00pm

Council Members present: Ranzie Callahan, Toni Carter, Shelby Coke, Jessica Hogg, Lexi Kanteres, Katlynn Mullins, Jacob Purcell, Hannah Raney, Veronica Whisler
Council Members absent: Sarah Brashear, Kathy Brown, Rachel Jackson, Ashley Renth, Katie Schmollinger, Kelsey Smith

7:00 Welcome, Introductions, & Family Photos (11 mins)

Notes:

- Heather Pruettt – Regional Council Manger, Brittany Lemons – Family & Community Engagement Specialist, Jessica Chin – Administrative Support
- Family Council members introduced themselves and shared family photos.
- Ranzie Callahan – Jefferson County, Toni Carter – Jefferson County, Shelby Coke – Washington County, Jessica Hogg – Clinton County, Lexi Kanteres – Clinton County, Katlynn Mullins – Marion County, Jacob Purcell – Marion County, Hannah Raney – Jefferson County, Veronica Whisler – Marion County

7:11 Ice Breaker (11 mins)

Notes:

- Family Council members shared how they picked their children's names.

7:22 Community Agreements Review (2 mins)

Notes:

- Worked on Community Agreements as a council.

Decisions made:

- Members agreed to abide by the current Community Agreements within our meeting space.

Next Steps:

- We will review the Community Agreements at every meeting and open them back up for discussion.

7:24 Training and Support for Family Council (1 min)

Notes:

- On-demand foundational trainings were shared.

Next Steps:

- On-demand foundational trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.

7:25 Community Collaborations & Priority Population Discussion (1 hour 9 mins)

Notes:

- Discussed the definition of Local Community Collaborations and presented an Early Childhood Community Collaborations map of Illinois.
- “I have worked in social work and have colleagues I can get resources from and if I didn’t have those channels I wouldn’t have known where to go. Only my personal experiences helped me with resources that not everyone else has.”
- Shared data, maps, and a list of Priority Populations for Region 13.
- “There is a negative stigma around Early Intervention. No one wants to admit that there is something wrong with their baby. It can be hard for parents to admit that their child needs services especially when they have to search and find programs when it is not easily accessible.”
- “From my own kid’s experiences, once they had services in preschool it would roll with them to the next grade level. There was no discontinuation of any of the services that they were receiving.”
- “Due to COVID, speech therapists only do evaluations when a teacher refers them. This was to minimize COVID exposure. They stopped screening every kid every year. I didn’t realize they stop doing this. Now kids do not have that one person that could have caught the services they needed that are no longer seeing them.”

Decisions made:

- The Council discussed community organizations or businesses they would like to see working together as a collaboration. Examples:
 - WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Office) and Birth to Three
 - Pediatricians/Obstetricians and Birth to Five
 - Obstetrician and Programs
 - Child Care and Programs
- Members discussed what supports might be needed to create a recognized Community Collaboration.
 - Outreach and Marketing
 - Program Fairs
- There are programs offered in certain counties and not others that could skew the data presented.

- If a smaller school district doesn't run its own Special Education program, they have to send children to the nearest location or have therapists come on certain days instead of in-house.
- Members shared why Early Intervention services were declined when they were offered.
 - Access to services
 - Negative stigma/Denial
 - Waitlist
- Family and providers need to be quicker at listening, accepting, and spotting struggles that are occurring with children. There are more roadblocks you have to deal with when a child is older and getting an evaluation. They end up missing years that services could have helped.
- Shared how COVID contributed to unemployment, child care, and services.
 - Quarantining without pay
 - Facilities shutting down
 - Stayed home because there was no child care available
 - There is a high need for services because children missed their "learning to talk" years in a classroom.
 - In-home services stopped
 - Providers short staffed
- What our region needs to service Priority Population in the future.
 - Education for parents, teachers, and pediatricians
 - Referral process
 - Parent groups
 - Vocabulary change

8:34 Closing Discussion (2 mins)

Notes:

- Discussed Focus Groups and interviews and requested members to send the Consent Form to anyone they believe would like to share their experiences.

Next Steps:

- The next Family Council meeting is March 14th from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Follow-up/Next Steps:

- We will review the Community Agreements at every meeting and open them back up for discussion.
- On-demand foundational trainings can be used between meetings to help us with our work.
- The next Family Council meeting is March 14th from 7:00-9:00 pm.